

Rock Island County

Rock Island County...Build the future and improve the quality of life for our community

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March 1, 2010

Diana Lopez
Senior Editor of Government Lobbying
Sunshine Review

1734 Savannah Court

Amherst, IL 60002

Dear Ms. Lopez

Thank you for writing to the County of Rock Island with your request for information pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.

On February 19, 2010, you requested the following documents:

- I. Contracts and/or agreements between Rock Island County and lobbyist, lobbying firm or law firm... since January 1, 2005.
- II. Invoices & bills since January 1, 2005 for lobbying related entities referred to in item I.
- III. Records of disbursements since January 1, 2005 to any lobbying related firm.
- IV. Any record, document, contract, letter, memo or email sent or received by any employee of the County since January 1, 2009 pertaining to or referencing lobbying related activities as referenced in item I or which pertain to or reference relationships with individuals or groups ... including Illinois Association of County Board Members...
- V. Records indicating all disbursements, including dues payments or other membership related fees since January 1, 2005 to any group, organization or association of which the County or any of its employees is or was a member...

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY BOARD

Rock Island County, Illinois

1504 Third Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

Phone: (309) 558-3605 * Fax: (309) 786-4473

- VI. Any other records pertaining to or indicating the County's membership in any other group, organization or association or the membership of any county employees in any group, organization or association.
- VII. All email and/or other written correspondence between any county employee and any lobbying related entity since January 1, 2009.
- VIII. All email and/or other written correspondence between any member of the County Board and any lobbying related entity since January 1, 2009.
- IX. Any and all invitations, on paper or in electronic format, to any and all legislative receptions that have been sponsored, funded or otherwise underwritten in whole or in part by the County, along with any records indicating the costs incurred for those receptions.

Please be advised that items requested under numbers I, II, III, IV, VII, and VIII do not exist in Rock Island County and therefore are not being provided. Item number V is being supplied in part. We have records dating back to October, 2007 which we could provide in an electronic format. This document is 296 pages, and in keeping with the copying fees allowed by the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/6(b), the cost of the CD is \$5.00 or \$36.90 if you'd like a hard copy of this material which must be paid in advance. For us to provide records back to January 1, 2005 is unduly burdensome. Prior to October, 2007; we used an accounting system that does not provide the necessary records to produce a report. We feel that the information available in the report period October 2007 to current should provide your organization with the details you are requesting.

Records requested in items VI and IX are not specific enough for us to provide. Membership information will be identified in the materials available in item number V. Additionally, the County Board Office would only have in its possession records that relate to is membership in specific organizations as they relate to County Board functions or duties. Membership information in other groups would be available by contacting the respective department(s) where the membership has been requested. This information is supplied in the material requested under item V. We ask that you please clarify what membership information you would like to review from the County Board so that we may furnish any such materials that may exist.

Lastly, your request under item IX for invitations and costs related to legislative *receptions*. The County has not sponsored or funded any *receptions* as defined. We have held legislative breakfasts with our area legislators and County Board Members where potential legislation was discussed. We request a clarification if this type of event is what you would like to review.

You have a right to have the denial of your request (portion of item number V January 1, 2005 to September, 2007) reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

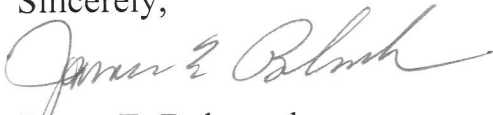
Public Access Counselor
Office of the Attorney General
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62706

You also have the right to seek judicial review of your denial by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court, 5 ILCS 140/11. If you choose to file a Request for Review with the PAC, you must do so within 60 calendar days of the date of this denial letter, 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). Please note that you must include a copy of your original FOIA request and this denial letter when filing a Request for Review with the PAC.

Lastly, upon your clarification of items VI and IX as outlined above, we will immediately begin collecting the materials you are requesting.

In keeping with the copying fees allowed by the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/6(b), the cost of your CD-ROM is \$5.00 or paper version \$36.90. Please send us a check or money order made payable to Rock Island County for this amount.

Sincerely,



James E. Bohnsack
County Board Chairman

JEB/PC/sc